Facilities for proper functioning of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2450. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate staff, infrastructure and office accommodation, funds for establishment etc. have been provided for proper functioning of his Ministry;

(b) the progress made by his Ministry to provide economic assistance to Scheduled Caste families below poverty line; and

(c) the special measures proposed for better functioning of his Ministry and proper coordination with States and U.Ts for effective monitoring *of* various programmes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Welfare of Scheduled Castes is not the mandate of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have stated that they are closely monitoring "Justice to Scheduled Castes" under Point 11(A) of 20 Point Programme with special reference to the implementation of various development schemes as well as statutory provisions for safeguarding the interests of the Scheduled Caste families. 25.59 lakh scheduled caste families were assisted during 1998-99 under various developmental schemes. Upto December, 1999, (i.e. during 1999-2000), 9.64 lakh scheduled caste families have been assisted.

(c) The schemes and programmes of the Ministry are reviewed and monitored regularly and the position is taken into account by the Planning Commission while finalizing the Annual Plan of the Ministry. Also, Secretary in the Ministry has reviewed progress under different schemes of the Ministry during November, 1999 and May, 2000, in meetings with the Secretaries concerned with the Tribal Welfare in the *States* and UTs as a part of coordinated approach and monitoring. Besides, Officers of the Ministry visit the StatesUTs and local implementing agencies to assess the implementation of the scheme from time to time.